



belonging@KI

July 1, 2023

Dear Prospective Member:

When I joined KI as the Executive Director in June of 2020, we were in the midst of the lockdown, and our beautiful new campus was eerily quiet. The High Holy Days were challenging that year, but we managed to come together as a community in unconventional, resourceful, and wonderful ways. We moved forward and connected in ways that have made this community stronger. Three years later, we find ourselves once again planning for the High Holy Days, for the upcoming year, and for the many **blessings of belonging@KI**:

- We remain committed to our consistent and full array of **in-person Minyan, Shabbat morning, Chagim services**, and communal celebrations. Of course, we will continue to offer online options for our services and as many events as possible.
- We plan on refurbishing our Innovation Center, dedicating it, and renaming it **The Living Room** this year. It will be another very warm, multi-use space that will attract people to KI.
- Ariel Wyner will join us as **Director of Musical Engagement**.
- There will be more to come from our **Encounters** concert series, film nights, and **KI Reads**, as well as many new cultural offerings.
- We look forward to pivoting as a **spiritual community** by adding more daytime and early-evening opportunities for coming together and experiences ranging from **mindfulness** to **new parenting** to responding to challenging trends in our culture.
- **Rabbi Hamilton's Hangout** has begun. People will have the chance to meet with him and fellow members on Monday evenings before evening minyan.
- And there's **much more** to come!

We ask that you, our members, make an Annual Membership contribution that helps sustain your KI community while remaining in-line with your financial reality. KI continues to believe there should not be a financial barrier to synagogue membership.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- Updated 2023-2024 **belonging@KI**/Membership Materials
- KI membership Sustaining Share Reference Guide

(over, please)

In 2021, we moved away from the traditional membership model. This year we continue with our Sustaining Share model. The generous donations that we have received over the past two years have made it possible for ***all*** our members to participate in our growing community. We believe this Sustaining Share model is more transparent, simpler, and personally fulfilling.

Support of our Annual Appeal, Kiddush sponsorship, and regular donations in honor of a simcha or to mark a yahrzeit are just a few additional ways you can help sustain KI. In addition, invaluable donations of time, talent, energy, and hesed strengthen our community every day, all year long.

belonging@KI means more than ever!

If we can accomplish this and so much more in this year of continued challenges, then there is indeed much optimism and excitement for what we can do together, with your support, to grow and strengthen our KI synagogue community in 5784!

With friendship and gratitude,



Barnet Wolf Kessel
Executive Director
barnet@conghi.org

PS High Holy Day tickets and a guide will be mailed in late August.



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Whether you are new to KI, a multi-generational KI family or somewhere in between, we hope you will join us in KI's ever-widening circle. Congregation Kehillath Israel is a warm, welcoming, and inclusive conservative synagogue that promotes Judaism that is intellectually alive, morally powerful, and personally transforming.

Kehillath Israel offers its members:

KI WORSHIPS

Uplifting and Inspirational Shabbat and Holiday Services led by Rabbi William Hamilton, KI's Senior Rabbi for over 25 years and a respected spiritual leader in Greater Boston.

KI Daily Minyan, the only thrice-daily egalitarian minyan in Brookline and a benchmark of our KI community.

KI Community Kabbalat Shabbat (KICKS) is our warm community of spiritually engaged Jews that strives to create soulful and energetic Friday night t'filah and nourishing, inclusive, communal activities.

KI YOUTH

Innovative Family Programming, led by Lisa Redisch, creates social and educational points of connection for KI youth and families.

KI Preschool, a Brookline community school provides a discovery-based curriculum that promotes traditional Jewish values and customs, and encourages each child to explore the beauty of Shabbat and holidays.

B'nei Mitzvah Seminars integrate our Day School and Religious School families through grade-based Shabbat dinners and Holiday programming.

Innovative **Teen Takeovers** promote ongoing engagement with text-based learning and service competency after b'nei mitzvah.

Youth Services and drop-off childcare, in collaboration with our campus partners, are offered on Shabbat and Holidays. These include **Minyan Aid** (ages 8-11), **Nitzanim** (ages 5 & under), and babysitting (ages 4 & under). KI welcomes children of all ages into the sanctuary and invites them up to the bimah when the Torah is returned to the ark.

KI Religious School (KIRS) embodies teaching that cultivates a deep love of Judaism, a strong fluency in prayer, and an excitement around holidays, mitzvot, culture, and community.

KI CONNECTS

KI 6+1 Arts and Learning Initiative recognizes Shabbat as the crowning of our week, but strives to provide daily opportunities for classes, activities, lectures and more at KI and throughout the 384 Campus, including curated cultural events led by Anna Winestein, KI's Director of Programs, Torah/Talmud/Mishna Study, KI READS, Library of Gratitude Series, Hangout with Rabbi Hamilton, Israel Advocacy, and more!

Young Adult Leadership at KI is KI's community of 20's and 30's focused on authentic engagement through home hospitality, Torah learning, and community service.

Jews by Choice are welcomed at KI with a whole heart along with many others who have made the same spiritual journey.

KI SERVES

KI Social Action makes a difference through partnerships with local organizations (such as Jewish Children & Family Services, Brookline Insp/Expo) and national organizations (including HIAS, Springs of Hope, Multifaith Alliance), and more.

KI Chesed, led by our **KI Lotsa Helping Hands Team**, responds to needs in our community. The **KI Baby Train** provides meals to KI's growing families and the synagogue provides meals to all in need, including those in shiva or recovering from illness.

KI Inclusion Committee facilitates the full participation of people of all abilities in synagogue life, promotes sensitivity to diverse populations, and cultivates a culture of inclusion at KI.

We look forward to greeting you personally and answering any questions you have about **belonging@KI!**



July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Your Membership Support allows us to

- Provide rabbinical support through worship, counseling, teaching, and caring
- Provide High Holiday Services at no extra charge (one ticket per member)
- Arrange lifecycle events such as brit, baby naming, wedding, and funeral services at KI
- Offer priority enrollment and a member tuition rate in KI Preschool
- Provide priority enrollment and a member tuition rate in KI Religious School
- Supply member pricing for many community events
- Provide members special discounted rates on room rentals for private use
- Deliver financial support to members and families in need of assistance

Annual Sustaining Share Model

- The dues structure below is the suggested amount for sustaining our KI community
- Annual Sustaining Membership supports our clergy, teacher and staff salaries, community programming, and contributes to the ongoing maintenance, improvement, and security of our building and physical presence
- For those who can, we encourage you to also participate generously in our Annual Appeal and many donor funds and sponsorship opportunities throughout the year

Student and Young Adult Membership

- Congregation Kehillath Israel has a deep commitment to young adults as a critical part of our growing and dynamic community
- Belonging at KI means enjoying Shabbat and High Holiday services, benefiting from our robust 20's and 30's programming, and meaningfully engaging with our clergy, staff, and leadership team

First Year Complimentary Membership

KI is pleased to offer a one-year complimentary membership to:

- Families during their first year in the KI Preschool
- Couples who are married by Rabbi Hamilton
- Jews by Choice who complete the conversion process under the guidance of Rabbi Hamilton

Schedule of Payments

- Membership shares are billed in June for the upcoming fiscal year
- **We ask for 50% of Sustaining Share commitment to be paid prior to receiving High Holy Day tickets**
- Sustaining Share must be paid in full to receive a discounted member rate at KI Preschool and KIRS
- Members may arrange to have share paid on a quarterly or monthly basis



KI Membership: Sustaining Share Reference Guide

Our membership model asks you to make an annual contribution that helps sustain your KI community at a level that is in line with your financial reality.

Sustaining KI

To sustain KI at its current size and budgeted costs in 2023-2024, we would need 400 households to support Sustaining Share Membership on average of \$5,125 each. This is based on budgeted expenses of \$2.05 million.

Our Sustaining Share Membership model of contributions is as follows:

	Annual	Per Month Option
Alef	\$4,000 - \$8,000	\$300 - \$700
Bet	\$2,000 - \$4,000	\$150 - \$400
Gimel	\$1,400 - \$2,000	\$100 - \$150
Dalet	\$800 - \$1,400	\$50 - \$100
Hey	\$75 - \$800	\$6 - \$50

In order to maintain the same dues revenue as last year, we need at least 40% of families to support in the lower bound of the Alef level. Please consider “reaching” if able, and if you have not financially supported KI in the past, please consider committing at an amount both meaningful and in accordance with your circumstances.

We encourage you to also participate generously in our important Annual Appeal and many donor funds and sponsorship opportunities throughout the year. These are essential components of our budget and allow us to bridge the gap between the Sustaining Share Model and our operating budget.

Determining Your Sustaining Share Membership Contribution

To determine which Sustaining Share contribution is appropriate for your membership, we suggest you begin by considering your income and adjust as necessary based on other factors that may affect your financial situation and how you engage with KI.

Factors that may affect your financial situation include your ease of meeting monthly expenses, savings, your stage of life, etc.

Factors that may affect how you engage with KI include whether KI is your primary synagogue, where you attend High Holy Day services, the size of your household (individual, couple vs. family), etc.



An Ever-widening Circle

Congregation Kehillath Israel

July 1, 2023
Tamuz, 5783

Dear Members of our KI Family,

We hope you're well and preparing for a restful summer. We write now to invite your renewed commitment to membership at KI. We look forward to seeing more of you in the weeks and months to come!

The past year has seen the strengthening of KI's offerings - our schools, our teen and Bnei Mitzvah energies, our learning opportunities, and our occasions for shared prayer. It has also witnessed the ripening of KI's Campus vision which extends many more opportunities for engagement to you and your Greater Boston neighbors.

As more and more people are calling KI home, the coming year will feature some particularly meaningful enhancements: the addition of Ariel Wyner as our Director of Musical Engagement and a significant expansion of Small Group sharings. We hope a renewed focus on music and emotional wellness will complement the already full pallet of ways in which KI strives to meet your needs.

We continue to pride ourselves in offering minyan three times each day. In August (Elul), we look forward to restoring our pre-COVID norm to pray Kaddish only in the presence of an in-person minyan. We also plan on preserving full online access to our services for the foreseeable future.

As you begin making your plans for the High Holy Days, when we look forward to welcoming back Hazzan Saul Wachs for a 52nd year, we ask that you consider purchasing High Holiday seats - whether or not you plan on joining us - as a generous commitment to help us enter the New Year 5784 with fresh purpose and energy. Suzanne in the main office (Suzanne@conghi.org) will be delighted to assist you and we thank you for your generosity.

We'll be in touch again in August, as we look forward to a healthy and purposeful 5784.

Gratefully yours,

Rabbi William Hamilton